

Series on marriage and the family – sermon 7 - 23/05/10 (am)

# **Love in Action**

Ephesians 5:25-26

*Theme: Jesus gave Himself up for the Church in order to make her holy.*

The Apostle Paul uses two analogies (comparisons) to show the way a husband is to love his wife.

The first is that the husband is to love his wife *as Christ loved the Church*.

# **Eternity Past to Eternity to Come**

The first analogy is rich in exciting theology.

Ephesians 5:25-27 may be part of an early Church confession or hymn.

It shows us how Jesus loves the Church.

What Jesus *has done* for the Church  
(5:25-26a).

What Jesus *is doing* for the Church  
(5:26b).

What Jesus *will do* for the Church  
(5:27).

# What Jesus has done for His Church (5:25-26a)

**Jesus gave Himself up for the Church,**  
*cf. 5:25b.*

In the Old Testament the image of marriage is often used to picture the covenant relationship between God and Israel, *cf. Isaiah 54:5-6.*

Jesus is the Bridegroom, *cf.* Mark 2:18-20.

His bride is the Church, *cf.* Revelation 19:6-7.

In what sense did Jesus give Himself up for the Church?

...when He agreed to the plan of salvation, *cf.* Ephesians 1:4-6.

...when He left glory, *cf.* Philippians 2:6-7.

...when He died on the Cross, *cf.* Philippians 2:8.

The only thing putting anyone into the  
Church is Jesus' blood!

*Do you realise this?*

*Do you agree?*

Husbands are to sacrifice their own interests for the welfare of their wives.

*Husband do you give up yourself for your wife?*

*Wash the dishes? Mind the children?*

*Put the children to bed? Stay in to let your wife go out?*

*Do you take your wife out?*

## 2. He sanctified the Church by setting her apart for Himself (5:26a).

A difficult portion of Scripture!

We see both aspects of sanctification here:

**one-off act** (positional), *cf.* 1 Cor. 1:2.

**process** (progressive), *cf.* 2 Cor. 3:18.

Christ's sanctifying of the Church  
**starts** with setting her apart then  
**continues** by Him **making** her holy.

Jesus set apart the Church for Himself,  
*cf.* 1 Peter 2:9.

From the point of view of marriage,  
what is being said?

A husband has set apart for himself a wife (and vice versa). He is to love, care for and be devoted to her.

*Do you need to be reminded of this?*

*Jesus gave Himself for the total well-being of His bride.*

*Husbands are called to do the same for theirs.*

## Conclusion – An Amazing Love

Jesus gave Himself for His bride.

Jesus set His bride apart for Himself.

Do you see the **Divine Romance** in this amazing love?

It is a powerful love,  
and a love that forgives faults and  
holds no record of wrongs.

*Husband is your love like that?*